

18th CONGRESS, }
1st Session.

[66]

MEMORIAL

OF SUNDRY

INHABITANTS OF ALBANY, AND ITS VICINITY,

IN

THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

PRAYING FOR

An Increase of Duty on Wool Imported.

FEBRUARY 9, 1824.

Referred to the committee of the whole House to which is committed the bill to amend the several acts imposing duties on Imports and Tonnage.

WASHINGTON:

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1824.

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled,

Your Memorialists RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT:

That the undersigned belong to the agricultural class of the community, and have a deep interest in the growth of American wool.

That the importation of cheap foreign wools, from Asia, South America, and other countries, where labor being very low, and almost the only charge the products of the land are subject to, is gradually destroying the sheep husbandry of this country—that branch of farming which is considered, in more experienced countries, to be the foundation of a good agriculture, and which, in most parts of this country, is almost the only mode of occupying second rate soils to advantage.

That the introduction of those cheap foreign wools, has had the effect of taking away the confidence of the home grower, in the only branch of agriculture he could safely follow, and of threatening part of the farming interest with great embarrassment.

Your memorialists respectfully suggest, that the agricultural interest is rarely found to intrude its concerns upon the deliberations of the Government; but, that the evil they complain of, is now become so serious, that their valuable branch of industry will be abandoned, to the great loss of the nation, if the Congress does not think proper to lay a duty upon foreign unmanufactured wool, and which your memorialists respectfully pray for.

Your memorialists would also observe, that they are sincerely desirous the true interests of the country should be pursued, and ask for no partial legislation in their favor; but they desire to state their opinion, that the claims of American woollen manufacturers would be more substantial, and more patriotic, if they were founded upon an intention to supply themselves with wools of American growth, in preference to foreign wools, the which, if they continue to be encouraged, will build the prosperity of one branch of active industry upon the ruin of the farming interest, which comprehends the greatest portion of the community. Your memorialists respectfully appeal to Congress, whether the protections and facilities enjoyed by every other branch of industry; the duties on foreign cottons; the duties on foreign sugars; the facilities given to commerce by moneyed

incorporations, and indulgencies at the custom houses; together with the natural advantages derived to southern products, by geographical situation, do not justify their petition, at a period when their occupation is threatened with ruin.

Albany, February 4, 1824.